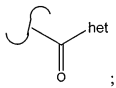
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase represented by the following formula: A-B-C

wherein A is an inhibition subunit, B is a linkage subunit, and C is a binding subunit and wherein:

the inhibition subunit A is an α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore for inhibiting the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore being represented by the formula:



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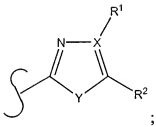
wherein "het" is represented by the following structure:



; wherein

X is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ carbon ~~and nitrogen~~;

Y is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ oxygen ~~and sulfur~~;

R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, aromatic ring, and heteroaromatic ring;

with the ~~following~~ proviso that ~~provisos:~~ R^1 and R^2 cannot both be hydrogen; ~~and if X is nitrogen, R^1 is absent~~;

the linkage subunit B is a chain for linking the inhibition subunit A and the binding subunit C and for enabling the binding subunit C to bind to the binding region on the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the chain having a linear skeleton of ~~between 3 and 9~~ 3 to 9 carbon atoms ~~selected from the group consisting of carbon, oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen~~,

the linear skeleton having a first end and a second end, the first end being covalently bonded to the α-keto group of A,

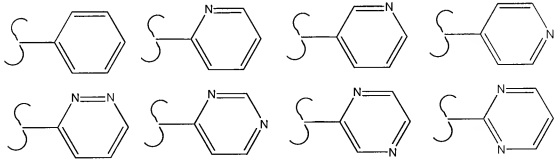
~~with the following proviso:~~

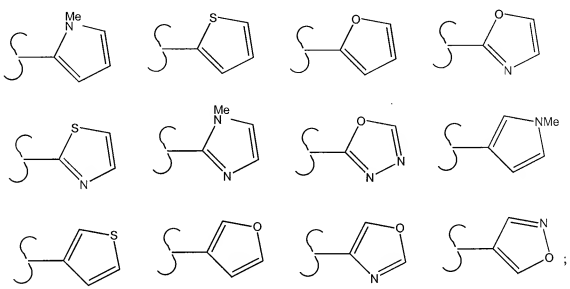
wherein if the first end of said chain is an α-carbon with respect to the α-keto group of the inhibition subunit A, then the α-carbon is optionally mono- or bis-functionalized with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and

the binding subunit C is a π-bond containing radical having a π-unsaturation and being selected from a group consisting of aryl, ~~alkenyl,~~ alkynyl, and ring structures having at least one unsaturation, with or without one or more heteroatoms, the binding subunit C being covalently bonded to the second end of the linkage subunit B, the π-unsaturation within the π-bond containing radical being separated from the α-keto group of A by a sequence of no less than 3 and no more than 9 atoms bonded sequentially to one another, inclusive of the linear skeleton for enabling the π-unsaturation to bind to the binding region of the fatty acid amide hydrolase while the inhibition subunit A inhibits the fatty acid amide hydrolase [[;]]

~~with a proviso that C is optionally C1-C10 alkyl~~.

2. (Currently Amended) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and radicals represented by the following structures:





~~with the following provisos:~~

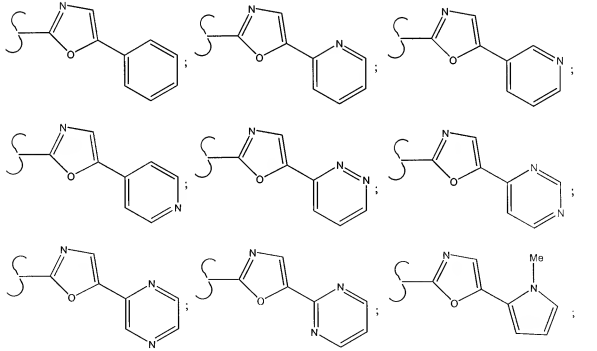
~~R^1 and R^2 cannot both be hydrogen; and~~

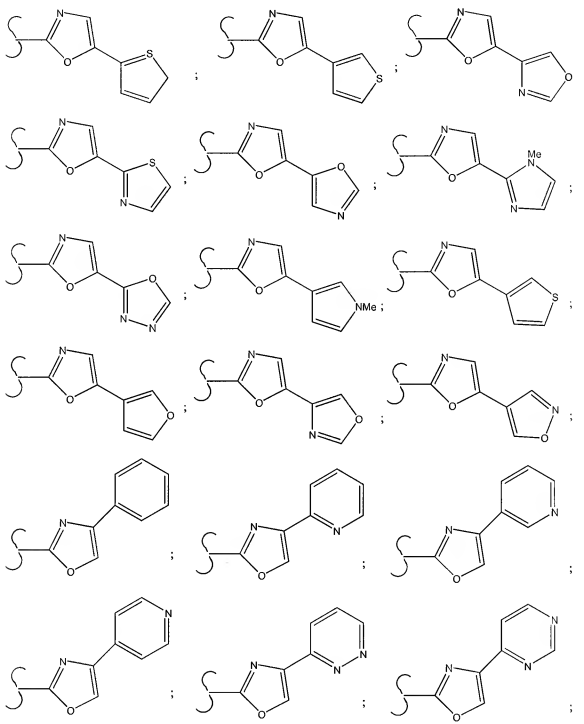
~~if X is nitrogen, R^1 is absent~~

provided that R^1 and R^2 are not both hydrogen.

3. (Original) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 2 wherein:

"het" of the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore is selected from the following group:

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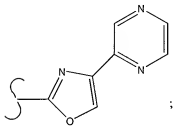
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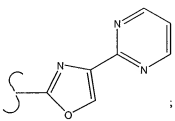
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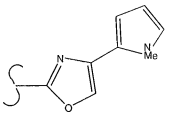
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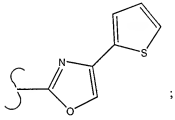
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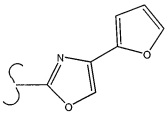
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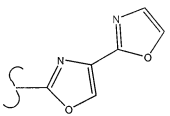
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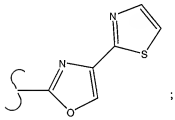
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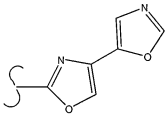
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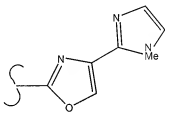
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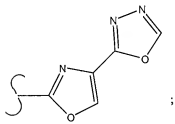
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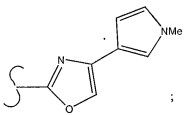
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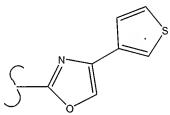
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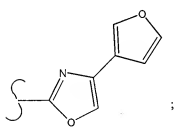
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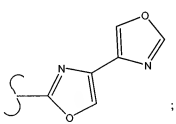
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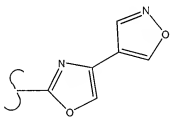
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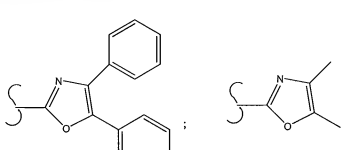
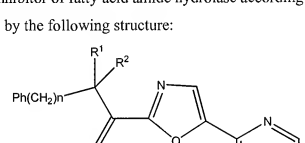


4. (Original) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 3 wherein the inhibitor is represented by the following structure:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and

"n" is an integer between 2 and 8.

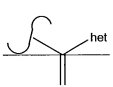
5. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A process for inhibiting a fatty acid amide hydrolase comprising the following step:

contacting the fatty acid amide hydrolase with an inhibiting concentration of an inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 1 ~~represented by the following formula:~~

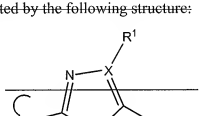
~~A-B-C~~

~~wherein A is an inhibition subunit, B is a linkage subunit, and C is a binding subunit and wherein:~~

~~the inhibition subunit A is an α keto heterocyclic pharmacophore for inhibiting the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the α keto heterocyclic pharmacophore being represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein "het" is represented by the following structure:~~



;

~~wherein:~~

~~X is selected from the group consisting of carbon and nitrogen;~~

~~Y is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and sulfur;~~

~~wherein R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, aromatic ring, and heteroaromatic ring;~~

~~with the following provisos:~~

~~R^1 and R^2 cannot both be hydrogen; and~~

~~if X is nitrogen, R^1 is absent;~~

~~the linkage subunit B is a chain for linking the inhibition subunit A and the binding subunit C and for enabling the binding subunit C to bind to the binding region on the fatty acid amide hydrolase which the inhibition subunit A simultaneously inhibits the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the chain having a linear skeleton of between 3 and 9 atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen, the linear skeleton having a first end and a second end, the first end being covalently bonded to the α-keto group of A, with the following proviso:~~

~~if the first end of said chain is an α-carbon with respect to the α-keto group of the inhibition subunit A, then the α-carbon is optionally mono- or bis-functionalized with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and~~

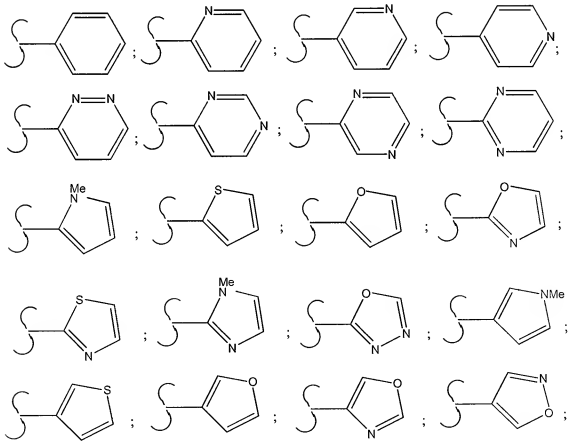
~~the binding subunit C is a π-bond containing radical having a π-unsaturation and being selected from a group consisting of aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, and ring structures having at~~

~~least one unsaturation, with or without one or more heteroatoms, the binding subunit C being covalently bonded to the second end of the linkage subunit B, the π-unsaturation within the π-bond containing radical being separated from the α-keto group of A by a sequence of no less than 3 and no more than 9 atoms bonded sequentially to one another, inclusive of the linear skeleton for enabling the π-unsaturation to bind to the binding region of the fatty acid amide hydrolase while the inhibition subunit A inhibits the fatty acid amide hydrolase;~~

~~with a proviso that C is optionally C1-C10 alkyl;~~

whereby, upon contacting the fatty acid amide <u>hydrolase</u>, the binding subunit C binds to the binding region of the fatty acid amide hydrolase for enhancing the inhibition of the fatty acid amide hydrolase.

6. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A process according to claim 5 wherein R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and radicals represented by the following structures:



~~with the following provisos:~~

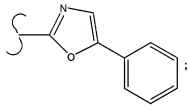
~~R^1 and R^2 cannot both be hydrogen; and~~

~~if X is nitrogen, R^1 is absent~~

provided that R^1 and R^2 are not both hydrogen.

7. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 6 wherein:

"het" of the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore is selected from the following group: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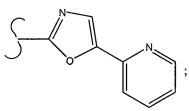
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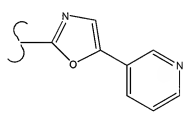
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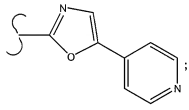
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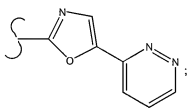
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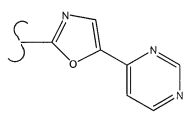
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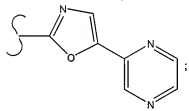
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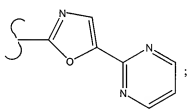
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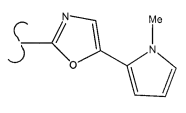
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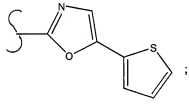
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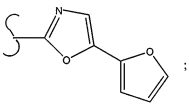
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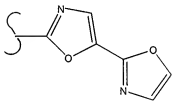
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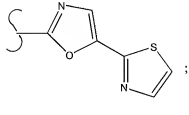
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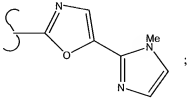
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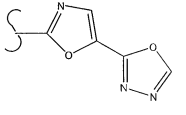
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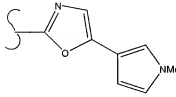
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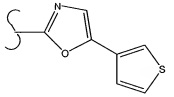
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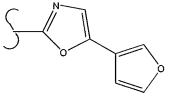
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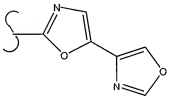
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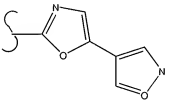
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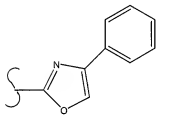
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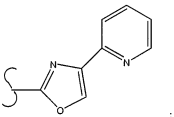
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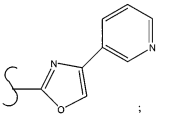
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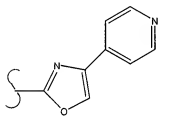
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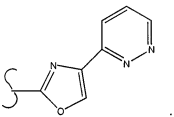
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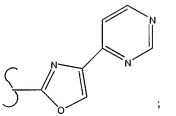
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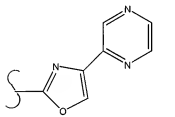
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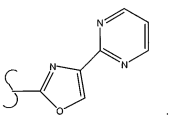
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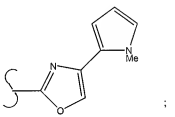
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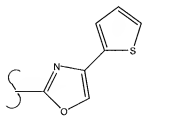
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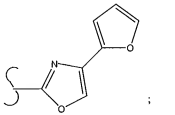
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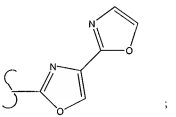
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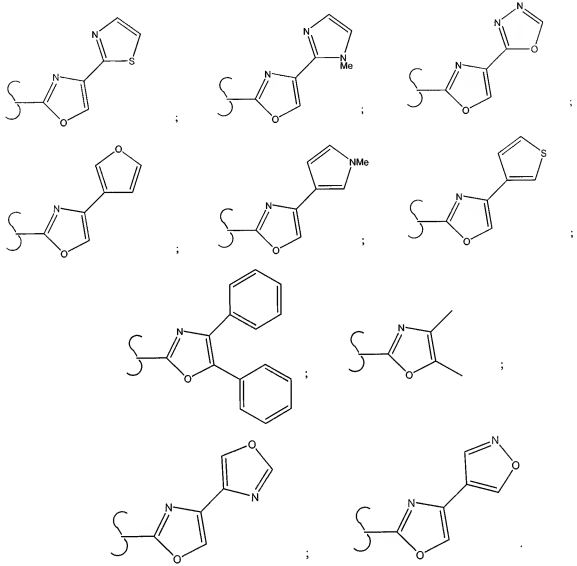
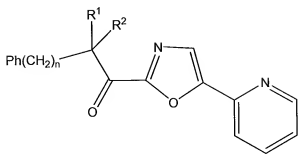


8. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 7 wherein the inhibitor is represented by the following structure:



wherein

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and

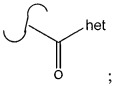
"n" is an integer between 2 and 8.

9. (New) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase represented by the following formula:

A-B-C

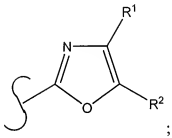
wherein A is an inhibition subunit, B is a linkage subunit, and C is a binding subunit and wherein:

the inhibition subunit A is an α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore for inhibiting the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore being represented by the formula:



;

wherein "het" is represented by the following structure:



;

wherein

R^1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, aromatic ring, and heteroaromatic ring;

R^2 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and heteroaromatic ring;

provided that R^1 and R^2 are not both hydrogen;

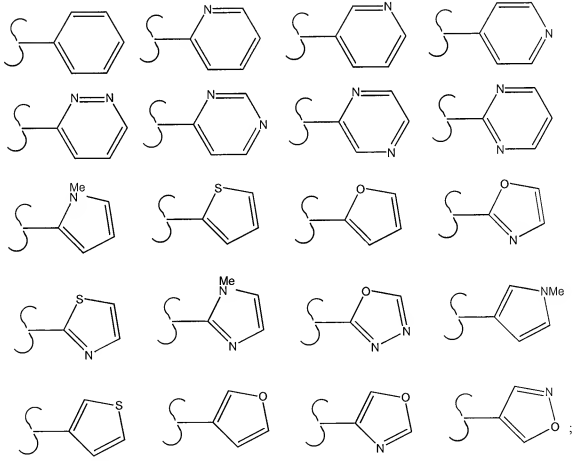
the linkage subunit B is a chain for linking the inhibition subunit A and the binding subunit C and for enabling the binding subunit C to bind to the binding region on the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the chain having a linear skeleton of 3 to 9 carbon atoms, the

linear skeleton having a first end and a second end, the first end being covalently bonded to the α-keto group of A,

wherein if the first end of said chain is an α-carbon with respect to the α-keto group of the inhibition subunit A, then the α-carbon is optionally mono- or bis-functionalized with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and

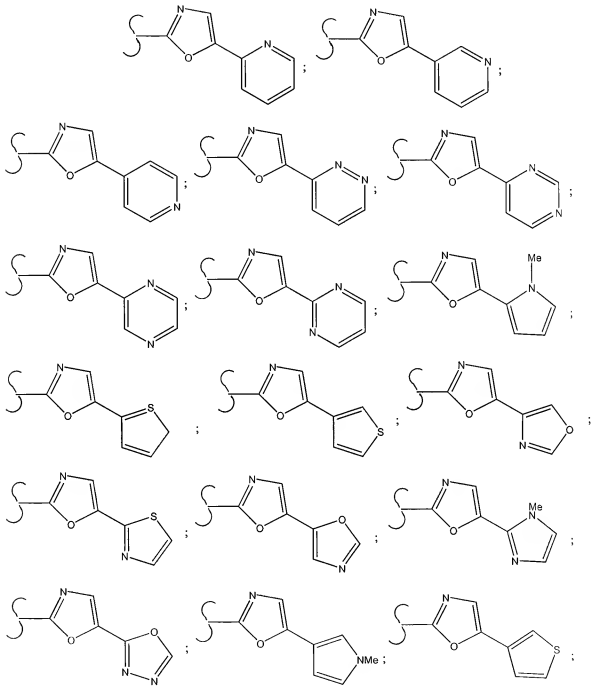
the binding subunit C is C1-C10 alkyl.

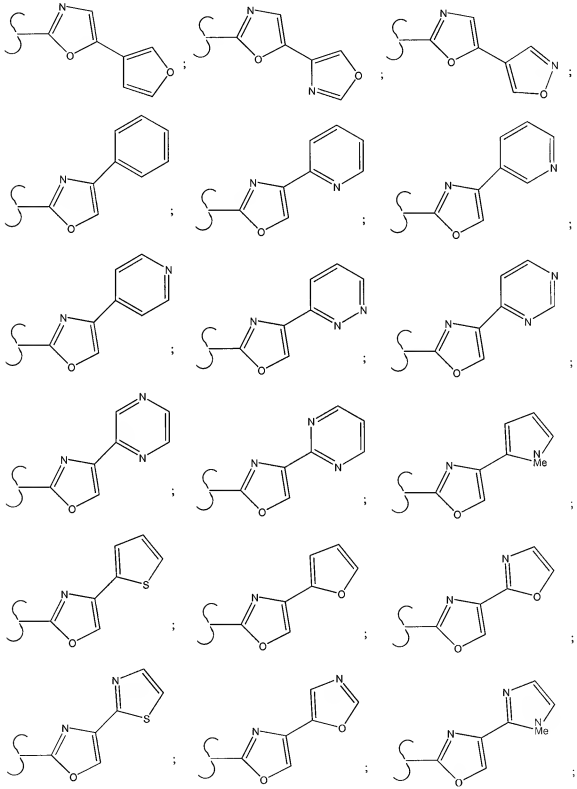
10. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 9 wherein R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and radicals represented by the following structures:

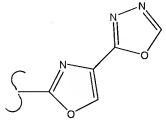


provided that R^2 is not phenyl.

11. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 10 wherein "het" of the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore is selected from:



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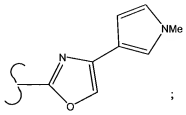

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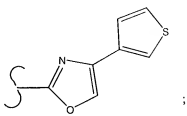

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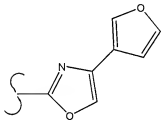
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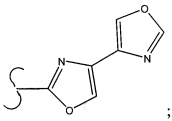
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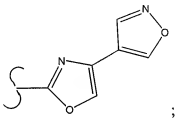
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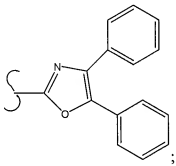
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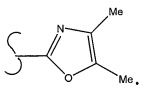

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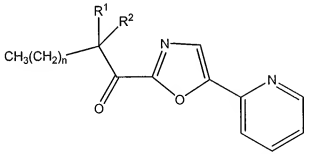
12. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 11 wherein the inhibitor is represented by the following structure:



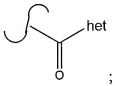
wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, or alkyl; and "n" is 3 ,4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

13. (New) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase represented by the formula:

A-B-C

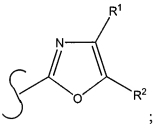
wherein A is an inhibition subunit, B is a linkage subunit, and C is a binding subunit and wherein:

the inhibition subunit A is an α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore for inhibiting the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore being represented by the formula:



;

wherein "het" is represented by the following structure:



;

wherein

R^1 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, aromatic ring, and heteroaromatic ring;

R^2 is a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and heteroaromatic ring;

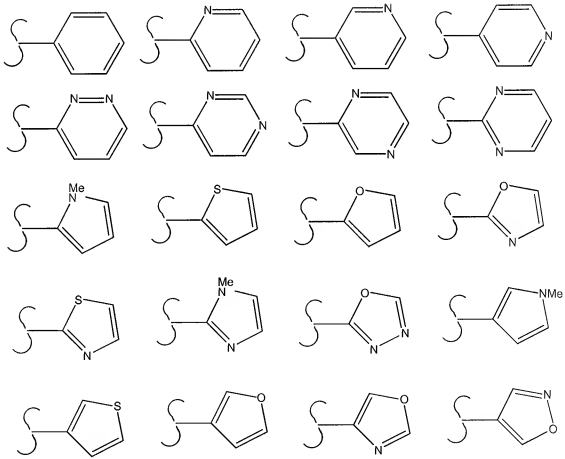
provided that R^1 and R^2 are not both hydrogen;

the linkage subunit B is a chain for linking the inhibition subunit A and the binding subunit C and for enabling the binding subunit C to bind to the binding region on the fatty acid amide hydrolase, the chain having a linear skeleton of 3 to 9 carbon atoms, the linear skeleton having a first end and a second end, the first end being covalently bonded to the α-keto group of A,

wherein if the first end of said chain is an α-carbon with respect to the α-keto group of the inhibition subunit A, then the α-carbon is optionally mono- or bis-functionalized with substituents selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, hydroxyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, and alkyl; and

the binding subunit C is a π-bond containing radical having a π-unsaturation and being an alkenyl having at least one unsaturation, with or without one or more heteroatoms, the binding subunit C being covalently bonded to the second end of the linkage subunit B, the π-unsaturation within the π-bond containing radical being separated from the α-keto group of A by a sequence of no less than 3 and no more than 9 atoms bonded sequentially to one another, inclusive of the linear skeleton for enabling the π-unsaturation to bind to the binding region of the fatty acid amide hydrolase while the inhibition subunit A inhibits the fatty acid amide hydrolase.

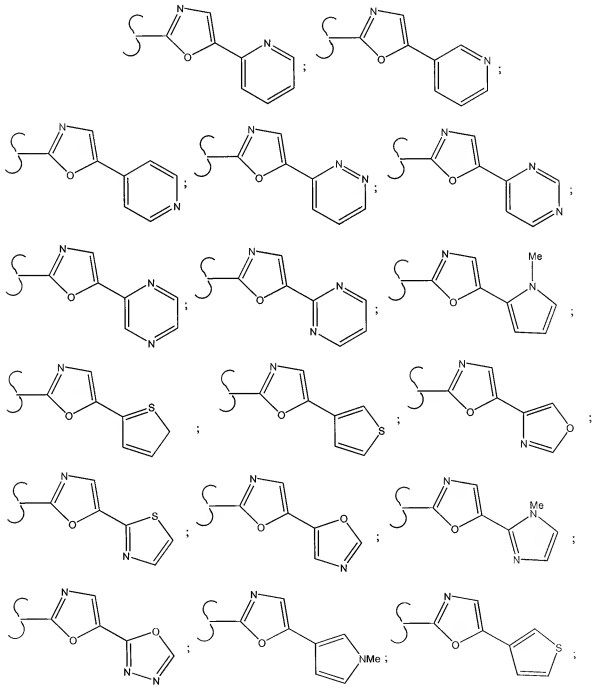
14. (New) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 13 wherein R^1 and R^2 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C6 alkyl, and radicals represented by the following structures:

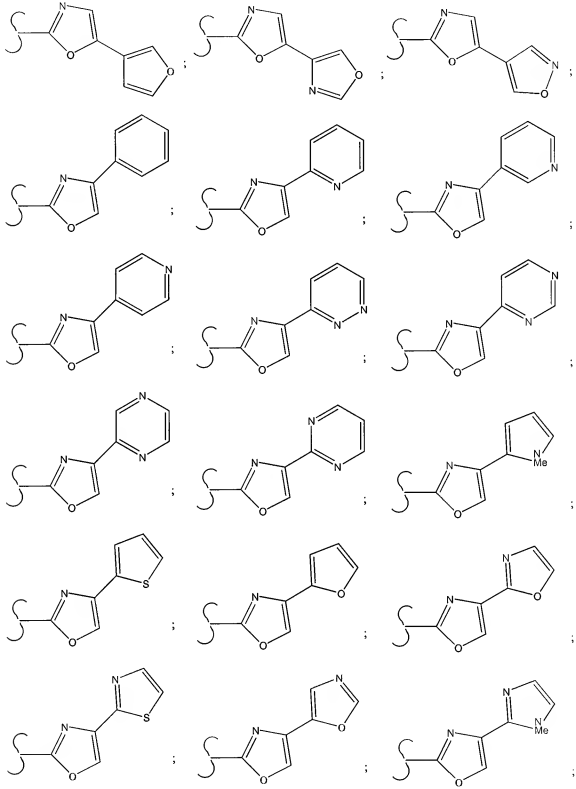


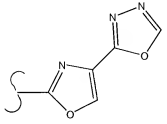
provided that R^2 is not phenyl.

15. (New) An inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 14 wherein:

"het" of the α-keto heterocyclic pharmacophore is selected from the following group:



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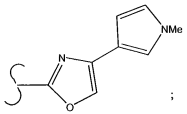

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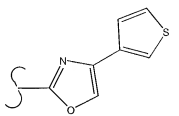

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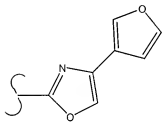
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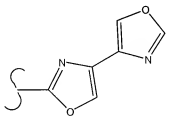
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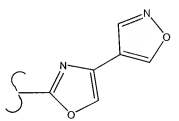
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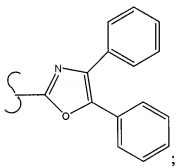
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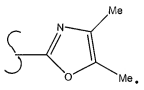

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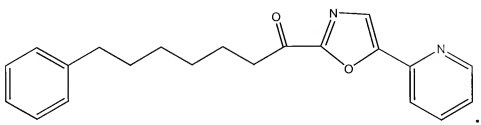
16. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 4 wherein R^1 and R^2 are both hydrogen.

17. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 4 wherein "n" is 6, 7, or 8.

18. (New) The inhibitor of fatty acid amide hydrolase according to claim 4 wherein the inhibitor is represented by the following structure: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